

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Introduction**

In the Office Action, claims 17, 19-20 and 30-44 have been examined. Claims 17, 19-20, 31, 33-35, 37, 39-40 and 42-43 are rejected, while claims 30, 32, 36, 38, 41 and 44 are acknowledged to contain allowable subject matter. In particular, claims 17, 20, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39-40 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,590,974 to Yang ("Yang"); and claims 19, 34 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yang.

### **II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

As noted above, claims 17, 20, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39-40 and 43 are rejected under § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yang. Claims 17, 33 and 39 are the independent claims in this group.

By way of this Amendment, the allowable subject matter of claim 30 is incorporated into claim 17, thereby placing claim 17 in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, claims 20 and 31 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency. Additionally, claim 30 is canceled to avoid redundancy.

By way of this Amendment, the allowable subject matter of claim 36 is incorporated into claim 33, thereby placing claim 33 in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, claims 35 and 37 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency. Additionally, claim 36 is canceled to avoid redundancy.

By way of this Amendment, the allowable subject matter of claim 44 is incorporated into claim 39, thereby placing claim 39 in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, claims 40 and 43 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency. Additionally, claim 44 is canceled to avoid redundancy.

### **III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

As noted above, claims 19, 34 and 42 are rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yang.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is patentable over Yang at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 17.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 34 is patentable over Yang at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 33.

Further still, it is respectfully submitted that claim 42 is patentable over Yang at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 39.

### **IV. Allowable Subject Matter**

As noted above, claims 30, 32, 36, 38, 41 and 44 are acknowledged to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 30, 36 and 44 are canceled by way of this Amendment. Furthermore, claims 32, 38 and 41 are rewritten in independent form, thereby placing claims 32, 38 and 41 in condition for immediate allowance.

### **V. Conclusion**

In view of the above, entry and consideration of this Amendment and allowance of claims 17, 19-20, 31-35 and 37-43 are respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number and/or e-mail address listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 03-0172. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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